Biostatistics Program

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Topic: "Reporting and Selection Bias in Case-Control Studies of Congenital Malformations"

Place: 2nd Floor Conference Room
        Regional Headquarters, Kaiser Permanente
        1950 Franklin
        Oakland
        (See Directions Below)

Date: Thursday, February 27, 1992
Time: 3:30 p.m., Refreshments
      4:00 p.m. Talk

Directions: From the 19th street BART station take 19th street towards 20th (the lake) for 1 blocks.
The building is between 20th and 21st streets. Signs and/or people will be posted to
guide you to the room.
(Behind the Cafeteria)

Abstract

Reproductive studies of congenital malformations frequently rely on exposures reported by
study subjects. Differential error in exposure reporting by cases and controls, which has alternately
been referred to as "recall bias" and "reporting bias" may result in a biased effect measure. Some
authors have attempted to avoid reporting bias by comparing exposures between two malformed
groups, rather than between cases and non-malformed controls. This approach, however, may
introduce its own bias, which we call selection bias. Both reporting bias and selection bias are shown to
be algebraically equivalent to bias arising from exposure misclassification. The magnitudes of these
biases are compared for a range of plausible parametric values. The case-control design is sensitive to
both differential reporting and selection bias, and the choice of study design involves balancing these
two sources of bias.
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